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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00527 132344Z  
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INFO FILE-01 ARA-05 PPC-02 ECP-01 OAS-01 PPA-01 DAND-02  
CO-02 EX-01 PMO-01 /018 AJ RD

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-05 SS-00 EB-00 DODE-00  
NSCE-00 ARA-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 L-02 AMAD-01  
TRSE-00 PM-05 PA-02 FAEE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 CA-02  
USSS-00 JUSE-00 OC-02 OCEE-00 M-01 NRC-02 FAIM-01  
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TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, CASC, CO  
SUBJECT: GUERRILLAS RESUME ATTACKS ON PIPELINE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. GUERRILLA BOMBINGS AGAINST THE CANO LIMON-COVENAS  
PIPELINE RESUMED JANUARY 11 WITH TWO PAIRS OF ATTACKS,  
THE FIRST SUCH ATTACKS AGAINST THE PIPELINE SINCE MAY,  
1987. ENOEF MET WITH FRANCISCO CHONA, PRESIDENT OF  
ECOPETROL, THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT OIL COMPANY, WHO  
BLAMED THE ATTACKS ON THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY  
(ELN), THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE PREVIOUS  
ATTACKS ON THE LINE. CHONA SAID AN EMERGENCY MEETING  
HAD BEEN HELD BETWEEN MILITARY, ECOPETROL AND OTHER  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS PROVISION OF SECURITY TO  
THE LINE.

3. THE FIRST PAIR OF BOMBINGS OCCURRED JANUARY 11 IN THE  
MAGDALENA VALLEY NEAR AYACUCHO, CESAR DEPARTMENT. THE  
GUERRILLAS SPACED THE CHARGES 30 MILES APART RESULTING  
IN BREAKAGE OF THE PIPELINE AND THE LOSS OF 15,000  
BARRELS OF CRUDE. THE CRUDE SPILLED INTO A CREEK WHICH  
EMPTIES INTO THE MAGDALENA RIVER, GIVING RISE TO FEARS  
OF A MAJOR ECOLOGICAL DISASTER. ECOPETROL SUSPENDED  
PUMPING ALONG THE LINE TO AFFECT REPAIRS AND IS  
ATTEMPTING TO CONTAIN THE SPILLED CRUDE.

4. THE SECOND PAIR OF ATTACKS OCCURRED JANUARY 12 NEAR  
URU IN THE UPLANDS BORDERING CESAR AND NORTE DE  
SANTANDER DEPARTMENTS. TWO CHARGES WERE PLACED  
APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES APART ON A SECTION OF LINE WHICH  
PROCEEDS DOWNHILL. ALTHOUGH THIS ATTACK RESULTED IN NO  
MAJOR LOSSES OF CRUDE (THE LINE WAS CLOSED FOR REPAIR OF  
DAMAGE DUE TO ATTACK IN AYACUCHO), CHONA SAID THE  
LOCATION OF THE DAMAGE, ON THE DOWNWARD SLOPE, MADE  
PINPOINTING OF THE EXACT LOCATION DIFFICULT. HE ALSO  
NOTED THAT SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS STRAINED ECOPETROL'S  
ABILITIES TO RESPOND, AS REPAIR CREWS ARE CAPABLE OF  
ATTENDING TO ONLY ONE INSTANCE OF BREAKAGE OR DAMAGE IN  
THE PIPELINE AT A TIME.

5. CHONA INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED A BAD YEAR BOTH  
ALONG THE PIPELINE AND WITH LABOR NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL.

IN HIS VIEW, THE SIMULTANEOUS BOMBINGS SUGGEST THAT THE  
GUERRILLAS ARE BECOMING MORE SOPHISTICATED IN THE  
PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THEIR ATTACKS. MOREOVER,  
ECOPETROL WILL HAVE TO RENEGOTIATE LABOR CONTRACTS AT  
THE BARRANCABERMEJA REFINERY THIS YEAR. CHONA, AND HE  
SAID THE DAS, ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT THREE OF THE  
UNION'S LEADERS ARE NOT MERELY GUERRILLA SYMPATHIZERS,  
BUT ACTUAL GUERRILLA COMANDANTES. MCLEAN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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